

Invaders or traders? Year 4

The focus of this topic is History

Words I need to know and use:

Chieftain – The leader of a village or small group of people
Danelaw – The area of England ruled by the Vikings
Freeman – A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for
Longship – A Viking ship with a sail and oars, also called a dragon-ship
Monastery – The building where monks live
Pagan – A person who believed in many gods
Runes – The name given to the Viking alphabet
Thatched – A roof covered in straw
Trader – A person who sells goods
Thane—The most important person in any village (the chief)
Scandinavia—A group of countries containing Denmark, Norway and Sweden

Anglo Saxon and Viking timeline	
AD 410	The Romans leave Britain
400-600	The Dark Ages – little is known about these times
550	Britain is broken up into small Kingdoms
660	Anglo-Saxons control most of Britain
757-796	Offa is the king of Mercia. Mercia is the most powerful kingdom at this time
790- 799	First Viking raids on Britain
793	Vikings attack the monastery of Lindisfarne
829	Wessex becomes the Supreme Kingdom
851	Athelstan, son of the king of Wessex, defeats a Viking fleet in battle
866 - 77	Invasion of the Great Danish (Viking) Army
867	The Vikings kill rival kings of Northumbria and capture York – The city becomes Jorvik, the Viking capital in England
878	Wessex is overrun by Vikings and King Alfred goes into hiding
886	England is divided – The Saxons retain the west, while the east was to be Viking territory - later known as the ' Danelaw ' - where the English and Vikings were equal in law.
926	Eastern England is conquered by the Saxons
927	Athelstan, king of Wessex, takes York from the Vikings
939	Athelstan, first king of all England dies
954	Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking king in England, is forced out of Jorvik (York)

Key knowledge:

Big ideas: Chronology, innovation, impact

Enquiry: Who invaded Britain? (A study of changes in Britain's social history and settlements through a study of the Anglo Saxons & Vikings)

Who invaded Britain?

When did they arrive? (**chronology**)

Why did they invade Britain?

Where did they come from?

How did they arrive in Britain?

What did they bring with them or leave behind? (**innovation/impact**)

Know that the invaders came to Britain to find land to farm, build trade links, find wealth. (**innovation/impact**)

Understand the historical changes in Britain and groups of people who settled there. (**innovation/impact**)

Understand the impact of the invasions on Britons (language, wooden buildings, religion, literature, place names, trade, resources, technology). (**innovation/impact**)

Know that invasion and settling has led to significant changes that have impacted on everyday life and that this has led to significant changes e.g. social cultural, economic and political that have impacted on everyday life. (**innovation/impact**)

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When the Romans left Britain, the country was divided up into a lot of smaller kingdoms and sub-kingdoms that often fought with each other and against any invaders who tried to take over.

By the 800s, there were seven kingdoms, the four main kingdoms in England were Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia and Wessex, the minor Kingdoms were Essex, Kent and Sussex.

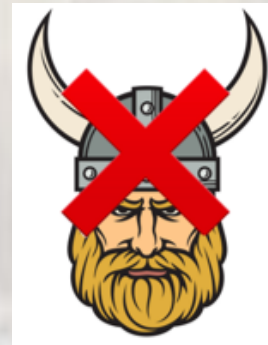
One of the most well-known kings from Mercia was Offa. He declared himself the first 'king of the English' because he won battles involving kings in the surrounding kingdoms. Offa is most remembered for Offa's Dyke along the border between England and Wales – it was a 150-mile barrier that gave the Mercians some protection if they were about to be invaded.

Many towns and villages still carry their Anglo-Saxon names today; including "England" which comes from the Saxon word "Angle-Land".

Early Anglo-Saxon villages were named after the leader of the tribe so everyone knew who was in charge. If you'd visited Reading in Anglo-Saxon times, you'd have been in Redda's village – Redda being the local chieftain.

The Anglo-Saxons settled in many different parts of the country – the Jutes ended up in Kent, the Angles in East Anglia, and the Saxons in parts of Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Middlesex (according to whether they lived East, West, South or in the middle!)

Not all Roman towns were abandoned though. Some chiefs realised that a walled city made for a great fortress, so they built their wooden houses inside the walls of Roman towns like London.



Vikings did not wear horned helmets.

Ask someone to describe what a Viking looked like and, chances are, you will inevitably hear about long hair, blonde beards and, of course, the iconic Viking helmet decorated with animal horns.

At Viking archaeological sites, however, evidence of horned helmets has never been found and written accounts of Viking raids make no mention of horned helmets. When you think about it, this makes sense. Horns on warriors' helmets would make them much easier to remove, either by grabbing the horns or as targets for weapon blows to the head.

